

CHANGES WE SEE IN TYONEK

Native Village of Tyonek

Our tribe has been taught for generations to respect and protect our lands and resources, because the land and animals are the ones that help us survive. We have never over-harvested any animals and have never just killed for the trophies or for fun. Our members rely on moose, porcupine, beavers, ducks, fish, butter and razor clams, and beluga whales. We rely heavily on our natural resources, due to the store bought food going up and very limited employment, not much members can afford the store bought food. For a thirty minute flight to Anchorage it is \$160 round trip for people to shop and around \$.36 a pound for freight. Fuel prices is \$6.50 per gallon and diesel is \$6.45 per gallon. Every since we were kids and playing in the snow, nowadays we do not see the snow that we used to back then. The snow machiners can rarely find good spots to explore due to the lack of snow.

This summer members of Tyonek has caught a lot of deformed salmon in the Cook Inlet. Some of the fish had 2 noses, missing fins, some of their insides are connecting with their meat and a lot of growths on them. One member caught fish with pimples all over its body. He also caught a pike four years ago and also this summer.

Our banks on the beach have been eroding, members are worried about the houses on the banks, it has eroded very close to most of the houses and may fall 35 to 40 feet down to the beach, hopefully no one is in them if they do go.

Our road system is made of gravel, so every summer there is so much dust flying around from trucks, ATV's, airplanes, etc., we have been using Calcium Chloride to reduce the dust but hasn't been very successful and found to be too expensive.

Our blueberries come sometimes every other year and when they do come they are early or late. The salmon berries have been non-existent for years and years.

At Robert's creek and fish camp the mud is getting closer and closer to the shore, we have lost a lot of our rocky beach and replaced with the mud, the members think it is due to the rigs that are in Cook Inlet. There also has been more and more sandbars popping up near the village, it is as far as the cemetery on down to the dock at North Foreland, back in the day we didn't see the sandbars every where like this. Members think this is caused by the dock that was put up in the 1970's.

The spruce trees are getting killed off more and more from the spruce beetles and if you look on the tops of our spruce they are growing out deformed. Our swamps are growing out.

There were some deformed birds that were found, some had 2 beaks, rounded beaks, too many claws, and some babies had extra wings in which they could not fly.

We have been seeing more salmon shark, more flounders, and way more seals, we have been catching shrimp, seeing killer whales, porpoises, the beluga whale count has been down for years and the last time we got a beluga whale was in 2005 and wasn't able to harvest them anymore due to their low count. Also why does fish and game allow people from all over to fish for hooligans in the Cook Inlet, in which is what our salmon and the beluga whales eat, being that the beluga is on the endangered species act list, and they mostly use the hooligans for bait anyways. Last year there was an abundance of dead hooligan on our beach, this year there was none. The king salmon have also declined tremendously and they have been coming later and later.

We have been getting different types of winter, sometimes we get up to 50 degree weather in the dead of winter.

Our creeks, streams, and rivers have seen an increase in the temperature, they have been getting warmer with each passing year.

The Chuitna Coal Mine which is in the permitting process, will be 8-10 miles from the Village of Tyonek and with our changing environment and the worries of our subsistence lifestyle, 98% of village members are opposed to the mine. We have compiled the surveys that we did with the village members on file. You can look up more information on the Chuitna Coal Mine at www.chuitnaseis.com.